

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 140393

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEWT, CVIS, CSCE, RO

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON EMIGRATION/MFN

REF: A) BUCHAREST 4244; B) BUCHAREST 4447

1. SENATE TRADE SUBCOMMITTEE HAS SCHEDULED, BUT NOT RPT NOT ANNOUNCED, HEARINGS JUNE 27 ON ROMANIAN MFN EXTENSION. ANNOUNCEMENT BEING DELAYED TO AVOID SUBCOMMITTEE'S BEING DELUGED WITH REQUESTS TO TESTIFY. HEARINGS ON HOUSE SIDE NOW SET FOR JULY 18 RPT 18 BUT ALSO NOT YET OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED. COUNSELOR NIMETZ WILL LIKELY BE PRINCIPAL ADMINISTRATION WITNESS AT JUNE 27 HEARINGS. THIS CABLE REQUESTS EMBASSY CONTRIBUTIONS IN PREPARATION FOR HEARINGS.

2. IN VIEW OF CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND MINORITY ISSUES, WE INTEND TO ADDRESS THEM IN OPENING STATEMENT, AT SAME TIME
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MAKING CLEAR THAT SECTION 402 OF TRADE ACT LINKS MFN AND CREDITS ONLY TO EMIGRATION, NOT TO BROADER HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS. EMBASSY'S PRELIMINARY COMMENTS (REF A) ON DOCUMENT PREPARED BY COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN ROMANIA ARE USEFUL. IN LIGHT OF CHARGES MADE IN THIS DOCUMENT AND MAY 18 KOCH LETTER TO PRESIDENT THAT GOR IS VIOLATING

RIGHTS OF HUNGARIAN MINORITY, PLEASE CABLE ASAP DRAFT PARAGRAPH FOR OPENING STATEMENT WHICH SUMMARIZES (A) OUR ASSESSMENT OF SUCH ALLEGATIONS, (B) ROMANIAN SENSITIVITY TO IRREDENTIST ASPECT OF SUCH CHARGES, AND (C) EXTENT TO WHICH THESE CHARGES HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES. IT WOULD ALSO BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO HAVE IN HAND UPDATED VERSION OF EMBASSY REPORT ON STATUS OF HUNGARIAN MINORITY, IN FORM SUITABLE FOR PUBLIC DISSEMINATION, ALTHOUGH WE RECOGNIZE THIS MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE IN TIME FOR JUNE 27 HEARINGS.

3. JEWISH EMIGRATION. WE NEED UPDATE ON EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF JEWISH EMIGRATION LEVELS (REF B) AND SUGGESTIONS ON WHETHER AND HOW TO ADDRESS PUBLICLY ISRAELI UNWILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON POTENTIAL EMIGRANTS. YOU WILL ALSO BE RECEIVING SILINS-VIETS LETTER (POUCHED JUNE16) ASKING FOR EMBASSY COMMENT AND PROPOSED RESPONSE TO REQUESTS THAT DEPARTMENT INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF INDIVIDUALS WISHING TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL.

4. DECEMBER 1976 REPRESENTATION LIST. BY OUR RECKONING, OF 351 CASES AND 1,061 PERSONS (EXCLUDING MARRIAGE CASES) ON DECEMBER LIST, APPROXIMATELY 72 CASES (169 PERSONS) WERE RESOLVED JANUARY 1-JUNE 10, 1977. THIS IS NOT A VERY ENCOURAGING PERCENTAGE. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY CONFIRMATION OF NUMBERS AND COMMENT. WHEN WILL NEXT REP LIST BE PRESENTED?

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5. MARRIAGE CASES. PERFORMANCE HERE REMAINS DISAPPOINTING. ARE THERE ANY PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVEMENT?

6. HARASSMENT OF INTENDING EMIGRANTS. FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE, ROMANIANS WHO WISH TO EMIGRATE HAVE TO OVERCOME MORE BUREAUCRATIC OBSTACLES (INCLUDING PRE-APPLICATION PROCEDURE) AND MAY BE SUFFERING MORE HARASSMENT THAN WAS THE CASE LAST YEAR. REQUEST EMBASSY VIEWS AND COMMENT ON WHETHER PUBLIC CRITICISM OF GOR ON THIS SCORE WOULD SERVE USEFUL PURPOSE.

7. EMBASSY IS INVITED TO COMMENT ON ANY OTHER TOPICS THAT MAY ARISE DURING HEARINGS. ITEMS INTENDED FOR INCLUSION IN ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT SHOULD BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN COB JUNE 20. CHRISTOPHER

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